

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A delivery system for nicotine comprising

nicotine encapsulated in a microcapsule system comprising yeast cells ~~which releases~~, the encapsulated nicotine being released on contact of the microcapsules with fatty tissue of the buccal cavity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The nicotine delivery system according to claim 1, comprising a mixture of cells charged with nicotine and diluent empty cells.

5. (Previously Presented) The nicotine delivery system according to claim 1, presented in a solid carrier from the surface of which microcapsules are gradually released for controlled delivery.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 5, in which the solid carrier comprises a saliva-soluble or dispersible substance.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 6, in which the solid carrier comprises a lozenge.

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 7, in which the lozenge is sugar-based.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 7, having such a size, solubility and charge of nicotine that it delivers, in use over a time period between 4 and 20 minutes, an amount of nicotine equivalent to that delivered by a cigarette.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, in which the lozenge is elongate, between 5 and 20 cm in length and snappable by having preferential snapping positions into a number of portions each capable of comfortable accommodation in the mouth.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 5, in which the solid carrier comprises a chewing gum.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, comprising a flavouring substance.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 12, in which the flavouring substance is also encapsulated in a microcapsule system.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, comprising a vitamin supplement.

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, in which the vitamin is also encapsulated in a microcapsule system.

16. (Cancelled)

Please add new claims 17-22 as follows:

17. (New) A delivery system for nicotine comprising nicotine encapsulated in a microcapsule system comprising yeast cells, the nicotine having a loading of between 25 and 60% by weight in the yeast cells, the encapsulated nicotine being released on contact of the microcapsules with fatty tissue of the buccal cavity.

18. (New) The nicotine delivery system according to claim 17, further comprising a mixture of cells charged with nicotine and diluent empty cells.

19. (New) The nicotine delivery system according to claim 17, further comprising a solid carrier from the surface of which the microcapsules are gradually released for controlled delivery.

20. (New) The system according to claim 19, wherein the solid carrier comprises a lozenge.

21. (New) The system according to claim 20, wherein the lozenge has a size, solubility and charge of nicotine that delivers, in use over a time period between 4 and 20 minutes, an amount of nicotine equivalent to that delivered by a cigarette.

22. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein the lozenge is elongate, between 5 and 20 cm in length and snappable by having snapping positions to form a number of portions each capable of comfortable accommodation in the mouth.